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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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WILLOFAX 13

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Guards Brigade

ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The function of the Guards Brigade (Gardajska Brigada) is to provide armed protection, security and escort for Marshal Tito and other high officials. It is a motorized military unit composed of some 3,000 soldiers and 100 officers, organized as a brigade, divided into three regiments and subdivided into battalions and companies.
2. The Guards Brigade is under the direct command of Lt. Gen. Aleksander Rankovic, Minister of the Interior and Supreme Chief of UDB, but has no organizational connection with either the Ministry of Defense or with the Military and Civil UDB. It is composed exclusively of Communist Party members who were 1941 combat fighters, and most of them wear the "memorial" medal. Uniforms are on the standard military pattern but are newer, trimmer, and in better condition than those of the average army soldier.
3. Headquarters of the Brigade is at Dedinje (Belgrade) and occupies the barracks of the former King's Guard. All personnel are stationed in this area and occupy about 12 buildings. Discipline is very rigid; personnel are not permitted to address individuals on the street, and usually appear in public in groups of two or more. Service in the Brigade is considered an honor, and is permanent and compulsory (i.e. individual members do not have the option of retirement).
4. Brigade Officers:

Commander

Maj. Gen. Milan Zecelj ("People's Hero")

Assistant Commander

Maj. Perovic

Officers

Maj. Donko Donkovic
Lt. Col. Rodic
Lt. Col. Petar Drenovac
Maj. Vojta Avramovic
Maj. Bozidar Sava
Maj. Easa Dekanac
Maj. Zedovic ("Zuti")
(also a People's Deputy)
Maj. Danilo Vukovic
Maj. Kosta Milosavljevic
Capt. Drago Malenica

Document No.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~5. Equipment:

Soldiers wear Russian-made pistols; FOO's are armed with sub-machine guns; officers have machine pistols of the Schmeisser type. An assortment of tanks of various types is at the disposal of the Brigade. These include French Char and Renault and some Russian heavy tanks, as well as a few German tanks. The latter are more or less out of operation and are in a poor state of maintenance. The Brigade ammunition depot is located at Veliko Gradiste on the Danube.

The Guards Brigade has its own motor pool comprising 400 passenger cars and 800 trucks. Some of the passenger cars are at the disposal of the Brigade officers. Chief of the Brigade motor pool is Maj. Raza Dukanac.

6. Guards OZNA:

A special "Guards OZNA" was constituted about July 1946 after the return of Maj. Gen. Zvezelj from a six-week training course in the USSR. The following persons appear to be serving in this branch:

Maj. Donko Donkovic, who is usually assigned to the Tito and Rankovic bodyguard escort.

Maj. Danilo Vukovic, who performs liaison duties with FROJ Belgrade, civil UDB Belgrade, and the military commander for the Belgrade city area.

The duties of Guards OZNA are the following:

- a. Control of all Brigade personnel
- b. Guard duties at Brigade Ho.
- c. Control of all dependents of Brigade personnel.
- d. Intelligence ("secret service") functions connected with the security of persons who are under Brigade protection.

7. The usual political-commissar pattern found in all military units also prevails in the Guards Brigade. All Brigade commissars have completed or are undergoing training courses in the USSR. Most of the Brigade senior officers have attended such courses as well. Soviet officers stationed in Belgrade frequently visit the Brigade, but their function is not known.

8. Housing of Dependents:

All dependents of Brigade personnel are housed in Frankestahl (suburb of Zemun) in a colony formerly inhabited almost exclusively by Yugoslav nationals of German descent. All houses, land, and furniture (in reality model farms) were confiscated by the People's Authorities and have been allotted to Brigade members on the basis of private ownership confirmed by deeds conferred upon the individual. This settlement is a sort of "reservation" and no other persons, civilian or military, may reside in it.

9. Personages under Brigade Protection:

Guards Brigade protection is provided for Kardelj and Sreten Zujevic as well as for Tito.

Twelve guards are provided for the residence of Milovan Djilas, Minister without Portfolio in the Central Government.

Twenty-eight guards are permanently assigned to the residence of Lt. Gen. Rankovic.

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